

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No
PCT/EP2004/012172

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC 7 G01N33/533 B01J19/00 B01F13/00

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 G01N B01J B01F

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, COMPENDEX

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	SPIKMANS VALERIE ET AL: "On-line on-chip post-column derivatisation reactions for pre-ionisation of analytes and cluster analysis in gradient micro-liquid chromatography/electrospray mass spectrometry." RAPID COMMUNICATIONS IN MASS SPECTROMETRY : RCM. 2002, vol. 16, no. 14, 2002, pages 1377-1388, XP009049801 ISSN: 0951-4198 the whole document	1,2,4-7
X	WO 96/40398 A (BIOSEPPRA INC) 19 December 1996 (1996-12-19) the whole document ----- -/--	1-7



Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.



Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:

- *A* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- *E* earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
- *L* document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- *O* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- *P* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

- *T* later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
- *X* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
- *Y* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.
- *G* document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

29 June 2005

Date of mailing of the international search report

06/07/2005

Name and mailing address of the ISA

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C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	KLING KERSTIN ET AL: "Visualization of micro-and macromixing in liquid mixtures of reacting components" PROC. ASME/JSME JOINT FLUIDS ENG. CONF.; PROCEEDINGS OF THE ASME/JSME JOINT FLUIDS ENGINEERING CONFERENCE 2003, vol. 2 C, 2003, pages 2329-2335, XP009049802 the whole document	1-7
A	BRINKLEY M: "A BRIEF SURVEY OF METHODS FOR PREPARING PROTEIN CONJUGATES WITH DYES, HAPTENS, AND CROSS-LINKING REAGENTS" BIOCONJUGATE CHEMISTRY, AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY, WASHINGTON, US, vol. 3, no. 1, January 1992 (1992-01), pages 2-13, XP000261480 ISSN: 1043-1802 the whole document	1-7
A	HAUGLAND R P: "COUPLING OF MONOCLONAL ANTIBODIES WITH FLUOROPHORES" METHODS IN MOLECULAR BIOLOGY, HUMANA PRESS INC., CLIFTON, NJ, US, vol. 45, 1995, pages 205-221, XP009020645 the whole document	1-7

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Box I Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 1 of first sheet)

This international search report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
2. ☒ Claims Nos.: 8
because they relate to parts of the international application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful international search can be carried out, specifically:

see FURTHER INFORMATION sheet PCT/ISA/210
3. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box II Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. ☐ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers all searchable claims.
2. ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
3. ☐ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
4. ☐ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this international search report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

Remark on Protest

☐

The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.

☐

No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

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Continuation of Box II.2

Claim: 8

Claim 8 relates to an inordinately large number of possible devices. The subject matter of claim 8 does not contain any technical apparatus features. The device according to claim 8 therefore appears to be so unclear or broadly worded (PCT Article 6) that it is not possible to carry out a meaningful search. In essence, any micromixer is covered by the scope of protection of claim 1.

The applicant is advised that claims relating to inventions in respect of which no international search report has been established cannot normally be the subject of an international preliminary examination (PCT Rule 66.1(e)). In its capacity as International Preliminary Examining Authority the EPO generally will not carry out a preliminary examination for subjects that have not been searched. This also applies to cases where the claims were amended after receipt of the international search report (PCT Article 19) or where the applicant submits new claims in the course of the procedure under PCT Chapter II. After entry into the regional phase before the EPO, however, an additional search can be carried out in the course of the examination (cf. EPO Guidelines, C-VI, 8.5) if the defects that led to the declaration under PCT Article 17(2) have been remedied.

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Information on patent family members

International Application No

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Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
WO 9640398	A	19-12-1996	
		AU 6160896 A	30-12-1996
		CA 2223835 A1	19-12-1996
		EP 0839068 A1	06-05-1998
		JP 11510595 T	14-09-1999
		WO 9640398 A1	19-12-1996

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